United Nations E/CN.15/2018/L.1/Add.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
17 May 2018

Original: English

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Twenty-seventh session
Vienna, 14–18 May 2018

Draft report

Rapporteur: Jawad Ali (Pakistan)

Addendum

Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 8th meeting, on 17 May 2018, the Commission considered agenda item 7, entitled "Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice". For its consideration of the item, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/2018/9);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the expert group meeting on restorative justice in criminal matters (E/CN.15/2018/13);

(c) Conference room paper entitled "UNODC input for United Nations system-wide guidelines on safer cities" (E/CN.15/2018/CRP.2);

(d) Conference room paper on the outcome of the cross-regional seminar on "Access to legal aid in criminal justice systems: quality assurance, holistic services and equity in access", held in Guangzhou City, China, 24–25 January, 2018 (E/CN.15/2018/CRP.4).

2. The Chief of the Justice Section of UNODC made an introductory statement.

3. Statements were made by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

4. Statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, the Republic of Korea, China, the United States and Chile. Statements were also made by the observers for Finland, Kuwait, Canada, Thailand, Algeria and Norway.

5. Statements were also made by the observers for the United Nations Children's Fund (on behalf of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children), the

V.18-03423 (E)

Please recycle

Academic Council on the United Nations System and the Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific.

Deliberations

6. Many speakers highlighted the importance of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice for ensuring sustainable development and achieving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16. They stressed the central role of the Sustainable Development Goals in promoting the rule of law and ensuring fair, humane and effective criminal justice systems. Many speakers made specific reference to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). A number of speakers reported on measures taken to translate and disseminate those sets of rules and use them as a basis for standardized training programmes in the criminal justice systems of their countries. Some speakers underlined the exclusive mandate of the Commission to develop and update those standards and norms.

7. Speakers described national initiatives to improve prison conditions, address prison overcrowding, ensure respect for the human dignity of prisoners and promote the social reintegration of offenders, in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules. National initiatives to promote alternatives to imprisonment and access to legal aid at all stages of the criminal justice process were also described.

8. A number of speakers highlighted the value of restorative justice approaches in addressing the needs of victims of crime and ensuring offenders' accountability and promoting their reintegration into their communities. The value of restorative justice in ensuring access to justice for indigenous persons, both as offenders and as victims, was also mentioned, as was its potential for resolving the problem of overrepresentation of indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system.

9. A number of speakers reported on their Governments' initiatives to prevent and respond to violence against children. They shared their concerns about the recruitment and exploitation of children by extremist groups and highlighted the crucial role of the justice sector in protecting the rights of children.

10. The need for increased efforts to end pervasive violence against women was also stressed. Speakers suggested the importance of establishing national mechanisms to collect data on, monitor and report on violence against women, including femicide.

11. Many speakers expressed their appreciation for the Office's efforts to provide technical assistance to Member States on the application of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, commended the tools and programmes developed for that purpose, and called for sufficient resources to be allocated to the Office to support crime prevention and criminal justice reform.